

REMARKS

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner did not acknowledge acceptance of the formal drawings filed on August 24, 2001. Applicants respectfully request such an acknowledgment.

In this Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to further define the powders, by reciting --whereby high efficiency is attained in removal of excess powders by air blowing--. Such an amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 4, the last full paragraph.

No new matter has been added. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 have been again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Laurent, alone or in view of JP '628 for the reasons set forth in the Office Action of September 6, 2002.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection again and submit that the presently claimed invention would not have been *prima facie* obvious from Laurent, alone or in view of JP '628.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's position is based upon a hindsight reconstruction of the references based upon Applicants' disclosure. Laurent does not disclose or suggest the use of non-tacky powders having the particular specific gravity value presently claimed for an optical film laminate, much less appreciate that particular advantages could be obtained upon the use of such a material.

Only Applicants' specification teaches and appreciates the advantages of adhering non-tacky powders having a specific gravity as presently claimed to edge surfaces of the pressure-

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sensitive adhesive layer of an optical film laminate including an optical film layer and a pressure sensitive adhesive layer. As is clear from Table 1 of the present specification, a material having a specific gravity outside the range presently claimed was poor in its air blowing suitability.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite --high efficiency is attained in removal of excess powders by air blowing--.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (amended) An optical film laminate comprising an optical film layer and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, wherein non-tacky powders having a specific gravity d of 4.0 or lower are adhered to edge surfaces of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, whereby high efficiency is attained in removal of excess powders by air blowing.